

Department of Veterans Affairs

§ 12.3

event of death. He or she may also designate an alternate to whom delivery will be made if the first designee fails or refuses to accept delivery. It should be clearly understood that the delivery of such funds or effects will constitute only a delivery of possession thereof, and such delivery is not intended to affect in any manner the title to such funds or effects or determine the person ultimately entitled to receive same from the person to whom delivery is made (hereinafter in the regulations in this part termed the *designee*). The person designated may not be an employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs unless such employee be the wife (or husband), child, grandchild, mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, brother, or sister of the veteran. The veteran may in writing change or revoke such designation at any time. If a veteran becomes incompetent, any designation previously made will become inoperative with respect to those funds deposited by the Department of Veterans Affairs in Personal Funds of Patients which were derived from gratuitous benefits under laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The guardian may change or revoke the existing designation with respect to personal effects and funds derived from other sources.

(b) Veterans will be encouraged to place in the custody of their relatives articles of little or no utility value to them during their period of care at a Department of Veterans Affairs field facility, and to retain in their possession only such funds and effects as are actually required and necessary for their immediate convenience.

[13 FR 7128, Nov. 27, 1948, as amended at 25 FR 1612, Feb. 25, 1960]

§ 12.2 Designee cases; incompetent veterans.

(a) An incompetent veteran will not be informed concerning the designation of a person to receive funds or effects; but if he or she has a guardian the guardian will be requested to make such designation of himself or herself or another person to receive possession of the funds and effects (other than funds deposited by the Department of Veterans Affairs in Personal Funds of Patients which were derived from gra-

tuitous benefits under laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs) upon the incompetent's death. The guardian will sign the letter designating himself or herself or another person with the veteran's name "By _____, guardian of his or her estate".

(b) No effort will be made to obtain a designation by or on behalf of an incompetent veteran who has no guardian.

[13 FR 7128, Nov. 27, 1948, as amended at 25 FR 1613, Feb. 25, 1960]

§ 12.3 Deceased veteran's cases.

(a) Immediately upon the death or the absence without leave of any beneficiary at a field facility, as defined in § 12.0(b), a survey and inventory of the funds and effects of such beneficiary will be taken in the following manner:

(1) If the death or absence without leave occurred during hospitalization, a complete inventory (VA Form 10-2687, Inventory of Funds and Effects) will be made of all personal effects (including those in the custody of the hospital, jewelry being worn by the deceased person, or jewelry and other effects in pockets of clothing he or she may have been wearing) and all funds found and moneys on deposit in Personal Funds of Patients. In the case of death of incompetent veterans after November 30, 1959, the inventory will be completed to show separately those funds deposited by the Department of Veterans Affairs in Personal Funds of Patients which were derived from gratuitous benefits under laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. For purpose of determining the source of funds, expenditures from the account will be considered as having been made from gratuitous benefits, not to exceed the extent of deposits of such benefits. In the event death occurred during other than official working hours, the officer of the day and/or a representative of Nursing Service will collect and inventory all funds and personal effects on the person of the deceased beneficiary and on the ward, will carefully safeguard such property and, upon completion of the tour of duty, will turn the funds and effects over to the properly designated employees.